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CIA Report Aids Fulbright Plea To Suspend Bombings

By THOMAS B. ROSS

WASHINGTON (CS-T) — The Central Intelligence Agency may become the unwitting ally of its foremost Senate critic in his renewed attack on U.S. Policy in Vietnam.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) who as chairman of the foreign relations committee has had few kind words for the spy agency, apparently has gained access to its highly critical analysis of the bombing of North Vietnam.

The CIA report may thus become Fulbright's chief weapon when his committee re-opens its exploration of Vietnam policy with closeddoor testimony today by Sec. of State Dean Rusk.

After much bitter protest over his exclusion, Fulbright was admitted informally last week to the Senate's watchdog subcommittee on the CIA.

Accordingly, he was present when CIA Director Richard Helms provided the subcommittee with a briefing on Vietnam

in its first meeting of the year last Monday.

What the CIA does or does not tell Congress is one of the spy agency's best kept secrets. But with all the furor over the bombing, it is almost inconceivable that Helms was not required to testify on the issue.

The CIA's views on the bombing are scarcely a secret any more. Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the CIA subcommittee and the Senate's pre-eminent spy expert, inadvertently exposed the substance of the CIA's attitude last week.

He said classified reports indicate much of the bombing has been "wholly ineffective" and the "most expensive" any country has ever conducted.

Russell, a leading hawk, suggested the air raids be replaced or supplemented by naval bombardment.

But Fulbright, a leading dove, presumably will press Rusk and other administration witnesses for a complete halt of the attacks on North Vietnam.

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